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PP RUEHAG RUEHBC RUEHDE RUEHDIR RUEHKUK RUEHROV RUEHSL RUEHTRO  
DE RUEHRL #1264/01 2811402  
ZNY SSSSS ZZH  
P 081402Z OCT 09  
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5433  
INFO RUCNMEU/EU INTEREST  
RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE  
RUCNFRG/FRG COLLECTIVE  
RUCNIRA/IRAN COLLECTIVE  
RUEHGG/UN SECURITY COUNCIL COLLECTIVE  
RUEHLB/AMEMBASSY BEIRUT 0159  
RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO 0221  
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 0321  
RUEHVT/AMEMBASSY VALLETTA 0061  
RUEHRL/USDAO BERLIN GE  
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS  
RHEHAAA/WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON DC  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC  
RUCXONI/ONI WASHINGTON DC  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHINGTON DC  
RUETIAA/NSACSS FORT GEORGE G MEADE MD  
RUEHDIR/IRAN RPO DUBAI  
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC  
RHMFISS/HQ USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 BERLIN 001264

SIPDIS  
ISN/CPI FOR THOMAS ZARZECKI AND EDNA SIDLER  
EUR FOR NANCY MCELDFOWNEY, STUART JONES, AND PAMELA QUANRUD  
NSC FOR JEFF HOVENIER  
TREASURY FOR STUART LEVEY AND DANIEL GLASER  
EUR/CE FOR ALEXANDER KARAGIANNIS, CHRIS HODGES AND PETER  
SCHROEDER

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/08/2034  
TAGS: [PARM](#) [PREL](#) [MNUC](#) [IR](#) [UK](#) [MT](#) [LY](#) [EG](#) [GM](#)  
SUBJECT: (S) GERMANY TAKES ACTION ON SEIZURE OF IRANIAN  
MUNITIONS DESTINED FOR SYRIA

REF: A. STATE 104749  
[B](#). BERLIN 1261  
[C](#). ZARZECKI-PETERSON E-MAIL OF 10/03/09

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Classified By: EMIN ROBERT POLLARD for  
reasons 1.4 (a), (b), (c) and (d).

[1](#)1. (U) THIS IS AN ACTION REQUEST. PLEASE SEE PARA 6.

[1](#)2. (S//NF) SUMMARY: The German government is moving aggressively to help thwart delivery of UNSCR-sanctioned Iranian origin munitions to Syria that are currently aboard the German-flagged vessel M/V HANSA INDIA. Following a German demarche to Egypt, the munitions were prevented from being off-loaded in Damietta, Egypt and are on their way to Malta with an expected arrival at 2130 (local) today. German MFA Director General Ruediger von Fritsch told EMIN that Germany is instructing their mission in Valletta to join AmEmbassy Valletta in a joint demarche to the Maltese government to seize and detain the containers and to report this UNSCR 1747 violation to the UN 1737 Iran Sanctions Committee. Von Fritsch said MFA State Secretary Reinhard Silberberg had already received the REF A non-paper, and would brief Foreign Minister Steinmeier on the matter later in the day. Thus far, German cooperation has been exemplary and our interlocutors are placing heavy emphasis on coordinating their actions with the USG. The Germans are asking Washington about how we expect Malta to dispose of the illegal cargo. END SUMMARY

GERMANY EAGER TO COOPERATE - ASKS FOR NEXT STEPS  
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13. (S//NF) EconOff delivered ref A demarche to German MFA Desk Officer, Mr. Ulrich Meier-Tesch, on October 8 at 0955 local time. Meier-Tesch said his ministry is deeply engaged with the M/V HANSA INDIA case and that Foreign Minister Steinmeier is involved in the decision making process. The demarche delivery was just in time for a 1000 high level MFA meeting on this case that included State Secretary Silberberg and Director General von Fritsch. At 1020, von Fritsch called EMIN responding to the demarche and indicated that Germany had agreed to deliver a joint demarche in Malta at the Ambassadorial level. Von Fritsch explained that since the M/V HANSA INDIA ship master and owner, while fully cooperative so far, do not/not have the authority to unload the containers in question in Malta, the Maltese authorities would need to direct them to do so. Von Fritsch requested a USG response as soon as possible regarding how Malta should dispose of the containers in question once they are unloaded.

14. (S//NF) In a separate phone call, Meier-Tesch told EconOff that Germany is under the impression from the REF A non-paper, that Malta would file any UNSCR violation with the UN Security Council's Iran Sanctions Committee and Germany was to encourage them to do so. Meier-Tesch said his ministry's UN office would have the final say as to how to handle this matter, but that nothing would be decided until tomorrow when the containers are inspected and the suspected UNSCR violation can be verified.

#### BACKGROUND

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15. (S//NF) Mission Berlin received its first notice to demarche Germany on October 3, 0430 local time in order to acquire permission to board and inspect cargo on the German-flagged M/V HANSA INDIA, which was transporting 7.62mm small arms brass casings and bars from Iran to Latakia, Syria (via transshipment from Egypt) in violation of UNSCR 1747. Germany decided to allow the ship to enter port in Damietta, Egypt and to demarche Cairo to ensure the eight specified containers remained on the ship until its next port call in Malta. On October 7, Mission Berlin received notice that the M/V HANSA INDIA was on course to Malta and expected to arrive at port at 2130 local time.

16. (SBU) ACTION REQUEST: Post requests Department guidance on the German information request in paragraph 3 concerning the disposition of the illicit cargo.  
Murphy